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Yellow Ribbon Campaign kicks off at Pittsburgh

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On the Cover...

Yellow Ribbon Event

Alarica Eichenfels, 4, proudly displays the backpack she received at the recent Yellow Ribbon Reintegration event held at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Feb. 28 through Mar. 1, 2009. The event focused on providing information to those Airman who returned home within 30 to 60 days of their deployment. (photo by 2nd Lt. Shawn M. Walleck)



Staying focused on the road ahead

by Col. Frank L. Amodeo
911th Operations Group commander

Only 28 short months ago I assumed command of the 911th Operations Group and became part of a great heritage in the 911th Airlift Wing family. The wing certainly had a good reputation, not only in the Air Force Reserve Command, but in the Air Force as a whole and even with the joint, combined and interagency organizations you have tirelessly supported over the years. Your significant contributions in conflicts around the globe indeed protected lives, American freedoms and our vital interests. The question for me in December 2006 was, "In looking forward, how was I going to prepare the Operations Group for the unknown roads head, for the next challenges, the next humanitarian operation, contingency or war?"

As I write this, my "farewell article" for *The Flyover*, I would like to challenge each and every one of you supporting the missions at the 911th Airlift Wing to keep your focus primarily out the large front windshield. We certainly may be able to learn from events seen in the rear view mirror, but remember, the wing continues to drive forward. Although we have great successes upon which to reminisce, look around your organizations. Many of our Airmen, perhaps you, were not there in OIF and OEF; even fewer participated in DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Their view out the back of the vehicle is vastly different than you more "experienced" members. So what does that mean?

To me, this means that as we look ahead, we all start with the same reference—we are moving forward. None of us can safely drive forward looking through the rear view mirror. As we scan the vast horizon out in front of us, the Lieutenants and Airmen should focus on close-in challenges. Learn your AFSC, complete initial Professional Development opportunities and begin to look beyond the hood ornament to see the vast opportunities at, not just Pittsburgh, but beyond these horizons.

For Captains and NCOs, you should be comfortable in your particular stovepipe AFSC and your role begins to include more supervision as you scan further ahead to see the winding road, traffic jams, weather, etc. These represent situations and opportunities at the

tactical level of leadership and require anticipation and proactive reasoning to ensure readiness. Continue to hone your professional skills while you encourage those junior to you to look up occasionally and scan that same horizon.



This looking toward the future has to be taught; it has to be mentored. Think about how you learned to drive a car and how, in those first few weeks you focused almost exclusively on those close-in challenges at the exclusion of anticipating what lie ahead. You were taught and had to learn good scanning techniques.

For you Field Grade Officers and Senior NCOs, you have already mastered the close-in obstacles; these are second nature. You are able to anticipate merging traffic, dangerous intersections, and other challenges. Further Professional Development and greater skill level knowledge has prepared you well. Your focus is well out in front. My challenge to you is to truly understand this focus and this awesome responsibility. As a Major and Master Sergeant, begin to really understand how the 911th supports not only AFRC and the AF, but the Combatant Commands and the Interagency. Expand your breadth of knowledge so you can become a more effective leader. Learn more about Air Force Doctrine to better understand how Operational and even some Strategic level decisions are made. By doing this, you are better able to explain the day-to-day requirements to our more junior Airmen who are dealing with their close-in vision, which, incidentally, is simplified because of the foresight of mid and upper level supervisors who properly anticipated the road ahead and minimized potential adverse impact while maximizing our capability.

(see *Focused on* pg. 19)

First time visit to 911th for AFRC Commander

by Tech. Sgt. Ian Carrier
Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., toured Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, March 7 and 8.

On the evening of the 7th, the General attended the Wing's annual awards banquet. During a brief speech he related how welcome he felt by the members of the 911th. He also pointed out how well everyone in the unit worked together and the outstanding job done during the world-wide mission.

"We've been fortunate to have the AFRC Commander attend our banquet for the last two years," said Master Sgt. James F. Rucosky, First Sergeant Organization president.

"It was truly an honor to host Lt. Gen. Charles C. Stenner, Jr. at our event. He keeps a pretty hectic schedule and we certainly appreciated him taking time out of it to spend an evening with our wing.

A Wing Commander's Call was conducted the next morning, during which Gen. Stenner presented the 911th Airlift Wing with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for achievements accomplished by the unit, adding a streamer to the unit flag. He also presented the AFRC Financial Management Airman of the Year Award to Senior Airman Jeremy Lawson.

Gen. Stenner then addressed the Wing, assembled in one of the base hangars. He reinforced Air Force core values, spoke on Reserve concerns, modernization of equipment and operations and emphasized that the Global War on Terrorism is a fight we cannot lose.

The General praised the success of the unit and

challenged the Wing to continue to "...do the outstanding job you've been doing."

"You can be extremely proud of the legacy you have out here," he said. "You are a bright shining star. My hat's off to each and every one of you."

The next stop for the General was a meeting with the First Sergeants of the wing in Perksburgh Café to address enlisted issues, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new recruiting office. While there, he took part in a swearing-in ceremony for the Wing's newest member, Airman Basic Adam Kroll.

The Airman's parents, David and Mary Jean Kroll were in attendance as Gen. Stenner read the oath to their son.

"I feel good about this," said an emotional Mr. Kroll.

Gen. Stenner spent the rest of the day touring the base and meeting with the various units on base, including the Maintenance Group, Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Operations Group and Security Forces. At every stop, the General took time out to shake Airmen's hands and field questions and concerns.

The General rounded out his visit with a tour of the 911th



Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., meets with the 911th Civil Engineering Squadron here during a recent visit March 8, 2009. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Irwin, Public Affairs)

headquarters building. He visited every office in the building and took time to speak with every Airman who was present. When asked what he thought about the unit and his time spent in Pittsburgh, he stated that he felt that "...this is a Unit with a proud heritage," said the General before departing. "Time after time you [members of the unit] are faced with challenges, and time after time you deliver. You can take that to the bank."

According to Gen. Stenner's official bio, as Chief of Air Force Reserve, he serves as principal adviser on Reserve matters to the Air Force Chief of Staff. As Commander of Air Force Reserve Command, he has full responsibility for the supervision of all U.S. Air Force Reserve units around the world.

New program focuses on deployees; families

by 2nd Lt. Shawn M. Walleck
Public Affairs

Behind every Yellow Ribbon is the face of a loved one who misses their deployed Airman and longs for their safe return.

To help ease the strain on an Airman and their family, Congress passed legislation in 2008 for the creation and implementation of a program that would address many of the challenges faced by family members as well as the physical and mental well being of a deployed Airman.

The initiative known as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program was legislated in Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008, directing the Secretary of Defense to establish a national combat veteran reintegration program to provide support and outreach to National Guard and Reserve members throughout the deployment cycle.

This new DoD program would provide informational events and activities at specified intervals both before and after a deployment cycle. These events would facilitate access to services and inform family members and Airmen to benefits and programs associated with a deployed military member.

Recently, the 911th hosted its first reintegration event February 28 through March 1 at the Nemacolin Woodlands resort located south east of the base in Uniontown, Pa. Approximately 135 unit members and their families participated in the day and a half event. On Saturday, families arrived in the late afternoon for an early check-in. This gave them some time to unwind and enjoy many of the amenities the five-



Maj. Betty J. Barnett of the 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron takes advantage of the plethora of information handed out at the Yellow Ribbon Campaign Kickoff event held at Nemacolin Woodlands, Feb. 28 through March 1, 2009. Here Maj. Barnett receives brochures from Red Cross. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Shawn M. Walleck, Public Affairs)

diamond resort had to offer.

“Working with the staff at Nemacolin was a great experience. They drastically reduced their regular room rates and were extremely accommodating to everyone. Their actions spoke volumes as to their level of support for military members and that attitude alone was what made having the event here so special,” said Nicole Santoro, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program coordinator.

“We here at Nemacolin place a tremendous value on the sacrifices our military members make day in and day out. And hosting this event was just one simple way we could say thank you for your service. “They serve us so bravely that it is our privilege to be able to serve them,” said Zelma Kassimer, Nemacolin Guest and Media Relations.

Once settled in, everyone came together in the early evening for an informal opportunity to enjoy light refreshments, hear about Sunday’s

agenda and listen to guest speaker Kelly Frey, WTAE news anchor and military spouse.

“As a military spouse I understand the demands and pressures of having to handle things at home during a short TDY or long deployment. It’s a juggling act both emotionally and physically. The YRRP is a fantastic time for spouses and families to reconnect and get back to the business of life at home,” said Mrs. Frey.

The second day of the event included numerous presentations, to include briefings by a representative from the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, TriCare, and Military One Source, just to name a few. Certain presenters along with local colleges and the Pittsburgh Military Spouse Group had tables with handouts and other types of informative material. Then later in the day personnel attended breakout sessions with topics ranging from

(see *Yellow Ribbon* page 14)

A perspective on remembering the Holocaust

Col. Michael J. Underkofler
22nd Air Force

My first pilot training instructor belted out one more time “always wear your dog tags when you fly so we’ll know who you are.” Since I feared the guy more than concern for my own remains, I did as I was told. Like many other military members, those two small metal identification disks, embossed with a name, social security number, blood type, and religious preference, have almost always dangled around my neck. Putting them on every morning became automatic, even on my days off, with me rarely ever thinking why I was doing it.

Occasionally over the years while out of uniform, civilians would make a comment to me about my service in the military. Puzzled at first at how they would know, I’d soon realize the dog tag chain around my neck was visible. It’s been very rare to see disparaging looks or comments when I have been recognized as a military member—a far cry from the treatment my father-in-law and fellow soldiers routinely received in public during the Vietnam conflict.

A few years ago I thought about this juxtaposition of military experiences and even harder about how identification markers have been used in history to distinguish and separate, sometimes even among the relatively undistinguishable. One horrific example I frequently think about is the cloth triangles the Nazis forced some to wear.

Those deemed less desirable or identified as enemies of the state were forced to purchase and wear cloth triangles. Jews typically wore two yellow triangles placed together to form the Star of David. Later, in concentration camps the Roma, or Gypsies, wore black or brown triangles. Jehovah’s Witnesses wore purple, political prisoners wore red, homosexuals wore pink, emigrants wore blue, and criminals wore green.

By identifying groups of peoples as different, encouraging disparaging remarks, and then assigning false-blame, the Nazis began to internally justify the inhuman treatment and then ultimately the murder of millions in the greatest genocide the world has ever experienced. We call this genocide the Holocaust.

So effective was the extermination process, in a few short years the Nazis were able to systematically murder six million Jews, or approximately two-thirds of those living in pre-war Europe.

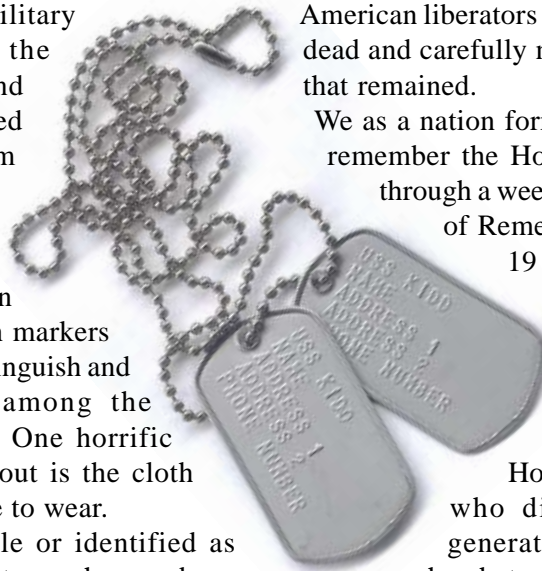
Killed along with the Jews were five million others, some of whom stood up against the Nazis or were caught sheltering Jews. Twenty percent of the diocesan Roman Catholic priests from Poland died in the Holocaust. At the infamous death camp Auschwitz, Father Maximilian Kolb stepped forward and offered to die by starvation in place of another prisoner targeted for death.

Military units reached the gates of the Nazi death camps in the spring of 1945. If they hadn’t, even more European Jews and many more non Jews would have died as Hitler was close to his final solution—the eradication of all Jews on the continent. Our military forebears were not prepared for the wretchedness they would see at the camps, but they instinctively knew they needed to do all they could to help. These American liberators took time to bury and honor the dead and carefully nurse to health the gaunt living that remained.

We as a nation formally take time each spring to remember the Holocaust, or Shoah in Hebrew, through a week-long program called the Days of Remembrance. This year it’s from 19 to 26 April with Yom Hashoah, or the day of the Holocaust Remembrance, falling on the 21st.

By annually and accurately telling the story of the Holocaust and remembering those who died we help ensure future generations know what can happen when hatred, bigotry, and indifference are left unchecked and unchallenged. It is especially important for us serving in the military to remember those who died in the Holocaust, to honor those who fought against the hatred, and laud those who liberated the camps. Then, like now, the American military are often the guarantors of freedom and human rights for those least able to defend themselves. Routinely our first-person histories and photos document the atrocities and help prevent the untruths of perpetrators who would later deny it ever happened.

(see Holocaust on pg. 7)



2009 *Wings Over Pittsburgh* air show cancelled

Financial shortfalls, unit commitments; lack of personnel availability drove decision

by 2nd Lt. Shawn M. Walleck
Public Affairs

After careful consideration a decision was made late on Feb. 27, 2009 to cancel this year's Wings Over Pittsburgh air show.

Already in the planning phase with numerous air show acts committed to perform, the decision was based on current operational commitments and adequate funding.

"It was an extremely difficult decision that was not easily made. We looked at our current funding stream against our mission commitments and it just wasn't possible," said Col. Gordon H. Elwell, Jr., 911th Airlift Wing Commander.

The command evaluated current mission requirements in conjunction with budget constraints, while still trying to produce a worthwhile event for the region. Planners looked at developing creative solutions and alternatives, such as soliciting volunteers from the community. All such options had merit;

however, it still did not come close to closing the financial gap.

In an e-mail to all base personnel Col. Elwell offered a more detailed explanation for the cancellation. "We explored many different 'out of the box' scenarios to help cut costs, and still hold the show, but because of the training pressures of ORI preparations compounded by the limited financials this year, we all came reluctantly to the same conclusion, said Col. Elwell.

"I fully understand how important this air show has become to the wing, and to the local community, and if there was any practical way we could have accomplished it, we would have, so as you inform your friends and neighbors about this decision, please remind them that we will look closely again next year and do everything possible to renew our air show in 2010," he said.

With many months of planning already behind them, the team understood the decision and the Wing Commander acknowledge their hard work and dedication for planning the event.

"Thank you all for your dedicated work, and the efforts that the air show team has already made. We can be proud of the long heritage of community outreach, and we will continue to do our part in being an integral part of the Pittsburgh Community," Col. Elwell concluded.



(Holocaust con't from pg. 6)

Visits a few years ago to Auschwitz and to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. helped sharpen my knowledge of this horrific time. They served as the catalyst for helping me to consciously re-think about how I felt and what I knew about the victims of the Holocaust.

Now my dog tags are not just disks with a practical purpose to tag my remains or as identifying marks of my military service for

all to see. Daily they cause me to remember the victims, heroes, and liberators of the death camps. If you haven't done so already, I hope sometime soon you'll have the opportunity to visit a camp or the USHMM.

This spring, participate in a Days of Remembrance ceremony at your base or in your community. Listen to the stories of actual Holocaust survivors and camp liberators, filled with unbridled emotion, as soon their voices will be silenced. If you don't have the opportunity to do so, read a book,

see a movie, or visit a website dedicated to teaching about and eliminating hatred, bigotry, and indifference especially in the society we are sworn to protect and serve.

One of the best parts of our military's history has been individual and unit compassion, self-sacrifice, generosity, and righteous defense of human rights. Continue to let this be one of our visible markers to the nation and world as we continue to confront intolerance and protect and defend others.

Air Force Academy grad assumes command

by Tech. Sgt. Ian Carrier
Public Affairs

Lt. Col. M. C. Roberts, a 1989 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, assumed command of the 758th Airlift Squadron, Feb. 7, 2009 as Col. Frank L. Amodeo, 911th Airlift Wing Operations Group commander, hosted the event.

Lt. Col. Roberts comes to the 758th Airlift Squadron from RAF Mildenhall Air Base, United Kingdom, where he was a MC-130H Combat Talon II instructor, pilot and flight commander.

"I want to first thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received and how very impressed I have been with the 758th Airlift Squadron and the 911th Airlift Wing," he said. "Col. Ben Knox worked very hard to make the 758th Airlift Squadron one of the best squadrons in the AFRC, and I'll do my very best to make sure it stays that way."

"I have to, from the bottom of my heart, thank my wife and children," said Lt. Col. Roberts. "Thank you for your patience and love throughout my military career. I truly understand the sacrifices they have made as they supported me while I did my small part to serve this great nation," he said.



Lt. Col. Mark C. Roberts accepts the guidon from Col. Frank Amodeo, 911th Operations Group Commander, symbolizing the assumption of command of the 758th Airlift Squadron, during a ceremony held here February 7, 2009. (photo by Senior Airman Tamara Cario, Public Affairs)

Col. Ben Knox, the previous 758th AS commander, has transferred to the inactive ready reserve.

Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander receives federal award from Association of Military Surgeons of the United States

by Senior Airman Jamie Perry
Public Affairs

The 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Mona P. Ternus, recently received the Federal Nursing Service Essay Award during the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States annual meeting held at San Antonio, Texas. Nov. 9 – 14, 2008.

The award was presented for her essay entitled, *Military Women's Perceptions of the Effect of Deployment on their role as Mothers and on Adolescents' Health*.

"I am very thrilled to have won,

it is a great recognition of the importance of the research and showing the hardships that military mothers face," said Lt. Col. Ternus.

The essay covers research conducted which shows the effects deployed mothers, who had adolescent children at home, faced, as well as the hardships the children endured. The study found that family support for the parent at home was critical for children to cope with the stress properly. When military mothers left their children, for a deployment, it proved to be a great hardship on the child due to the critical stage in life they are at in trying to establish their own independence. It also introduced

some key factors that are not always addressed before deployment such as living arrangements for children, especially when they reside with a single parent or when both spouses are members of the military.

"Maternal absence from the home, because of job demands, places added stress on a woman's sense of self, family dynamics, and the mother's time and ability to parent," said Lt. Col. Ternus.

Her essay was essentially the first of its kind and for the first time brought to light and addressed the endeavors that military mothers face now more so than ever due to the large increase in women enlistment to the military.

Visitor Center helps streamline front gate traffic

Completion of the center marks final phase in year-long project

**by Staff Sgt. Roberto Modelo
Public Affairs Office**

Entry control points facilitate the flow of traffic in a logical way so as to get approved personnel into an area in a secure and controlled fashion.

The 911th Airlift Wing has seen many changes to its most visible control point, the base front gate entrance. The most recent change being the completion of the Visitor Control Center earlier this year.

After five months of construction, the center was completed on Feb. 1, 2009, just in time for the February Unit Training Assembly. The center helps the flow of traffic into and out of the base. Before the center was completed, all visitor matters had to be handled at the front gate.

"The process was to sign visitors in at the main gate which caused congestion at the gate," said 1st. Lt. Randall Gernhardt, 911th Security Force Squadron Operating Officer, 911th Airlift Wing.



The new Visitor Control Center here at the 911th Airlift Wing opened for business February 1, 2009. The center will help facilitate visitors in and out of the base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Roberto Modelo)

Visitors needing to be escorted on to the base will notice the turnoff for the center right before the main gate on entrance, on their right-hand side. The hours are from 7:30a.m to 4:30p.m., Monday through Friday and 7:00a.m to 3:00p.m for Primary UTAs. If the center is closed, visitors will still need to park in the center's parking lot and then proceed to walk from their car to the front gate in order to get processed into the base. Visitors and their escorts will need

to have the proper documentation in hand when they arrive.

"A military or government ID card is needed to escort personnel onto the base," said 1st. Lt. Gernhardt. "If a visitor is driving onto the installation, they will need a driver's license, proof of insurance and registration," he added.

Other services offered by the center include getting your common access card (identification card), line badges and vehicle registration.

Joint operation delivers 'hero packs' to command's kids

**by Staff Sgt. Marc C. Nickens
Public Affairs**

Recently, shoulder backpacks became available to children of Reserve members who are, or have been deployed within the last year.

The "Hero Pack" giveaway is part of Operation Military Kids, a national program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and 4-H Club programs in Pennsylvania and administered locally by the Pittsburgh Military Family Support Group.

"It's a way for the OMK partner agencies to say thank you to the children of deployed family members for the sacrifices they make while their parents are in a forward

environment," said Mr. Terry Stuart, director of Airman and Family Readiness.

There are two versions of the "Hero Packs" available. Young Hero Packs for children ages 3 to 8 years old and packs for 9 to 18 year olds. Both contain a variety of items intended to provide children with fun activities and ways to stay connected to their deployed parents. Additionally, "Parent Pouches" are included to help parents locate local support programs.

"This is the first time this program has been done here and I hope to keep the program going, Mr. Stuart concluded."

For more information on Hero Packs, contact family readiness at (412) 474-8544, or visit the Operation Military Kids website at [www. operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org).

A conversation about helping meet the needs of the Air Force's greatest asset: *People*

by Col. Bryan Bly
Vice Wing Commander

[The hall of 911th Headquarters building, around December 2008]

"Yo Bly, new guy, I'm appointing you HRDC Chairman. It's about time for you to schedule an HRDC meeting." [Col. Gordon H. Elwell, Jr., 911th Airlift Wing commander]

"HRDC? What is an HRDC? Another meeting? Wait a minute, isn't that an EEO thing? Diversity? History Remembrance Day Committee?" [Col. Bly,]

"I'm sure Tom Kittler (previous vice commander) left you a binder with complete details. Read, learn, and meet your team." [Col. Elwell]

"Aye sir, I'm on it." [Col. Bly]

————— [Three months later] —————

"Alright Bly, update me on the HRDC. What have you learned?" [Col. Elwell]

"Well boss, I learned a lot. The HRDC is the Human Resources Development Council, and our charter comes directly from General Stenner, Chief of the Air Force Reserve. We work for you to support AFRC's HRDC purpose, 'to advise and make recommendations...on any and all matters pertaining to human resources within the Command.'" [Col. Bly]

"That is pretty broad, and a little vague. What else does AFRC have to say about their HRDC purpose?" [Col. Elwell]

"The overall goal is to create and maintain a fully developed, skilled, and diversified work force. How do we go about that task? By giving 'Reservists and civilian members...all of the opportunities that will enable them to maximize their potential, in accordance with the needs of the command.'" [Col. Bly]

"O.K., so you build an HRDC, then what's their mission?" [Col. Elwell]

"The heart of the matter is in our mission statement. 'To advise and make recommendations to the Wing Commander on any and all matters pertaining to human resources within the 911th AW. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: work force development, diversity, and career development, retention, recruitment, and promotion opportunities.'" [Col. Bly]

"And who is on the HRDC team?" [Col. Elwell]

"Well, you are dealing with the people of the 911th, so you should try to represent all the bases. Let's see, we have 15 ranks to choose from, two sexes, three

variations of work status, several racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, three Groups and ASTS, and we probably should have some core members, like the Wing Exec, Command Chief, Military Equal Opportunity, Judge Advocate, Family Support, Public Affairs and Recruiting. That should make a nice, balanced group so all voices will be heard." [Col. Bly]

"So you have an HRDC team in place and a mission. What have you done for me lately?" [Col. Elwell]

"We sent two of our enlisted women to the 'Women in Aviation International' conference in Atlanta last month. They volunteered to work in some booths, learned a lot, made some professional contacts, and represented the 911th very well. They were perfect ambassadors (work force development). One of our young officers will attend the RODE (Reserve Officer Developmental Education) course next month (career development).

We have at least one deserving airman ready to interview for an officer billet in the Logistics Readiness Squadron in May (promotion opportunities). During the February Unit Training Assembly, Mr. Lee Floyd spoke to a standing-room only crowd in the chapel on "Time of Change" for "African-American History Month." Word from the team is he is an excellent speaker and our audience really enjoyed his speech (diversity).

We have some excellent suggestions from our young Airmen about scheduling activities on Friday and Saturday nights on UTA weekends to provide an alternative to the club, such as movies or card tournaments. Some of the younger members from outside of the commuting area do not look forward to UTAs because of our lack of 'night life' opportunities.

We're working on those, as well as an Airman's Call with the Command Chief in May. We also want to set up a 'Rising Six' council for our enlisted Airmen (retention). We are looking at getting CAC readers for home use for all Wing members who want one, so they can access military e-mail and servers from home (retention). We're brainstorming recruitment opportunities since we are not able to host an Air Show this year, but I'm sure this team will come up with something." [Col. Bly]

"It sounds like they are on track." [Col. Elwell]

"Certainly are. They are quite a team, and they are responsible for our most valuable asset on base. They put the HUMAN in HRDC." [Col. Bly]

E-Mail address:

DD 214s made easy through a virtual world

by Senior Airman Matt Eichenfels
Military Personnel

The following steps are necessary to obtain a DD Form 214 *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*. **You must initiate the DD Form 214 yourself** by means of the Virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF). You also will have to **fax, e-mail, mail, or physically bring in the following documents to the Relocation office in the MPF to have the form completed:**

- A copy of your AF IMT 938 orders and any amendments that have been certified
- A copy of your CED orders that have been certified
- A copy of your travel orders that have been certified (If served overseas)
- A printout of your Awards and Decorations taken from the vMPF (once they have been updated)
- Need to know last day of leave and if any leave was sold back

MPF will not be able to provide anyone with a DD Form 214 unless they receive this information.

1. Log into the vMPF.
 - a. select "Self Service Actions"
 - b. select "Separations"
 - c. select "DD Form 214 Worksheet"
 - d. select "Application"
 - e. select "Create New Application"
2. Complete all known information. **DO NOT change "correct or "incorrect" buttons.** This will not allow the worksheet to properly save and route. Note* If you are unsure of how to enter information, click on the blue highlighted titles for a detailed description.



3. Click Submit.
4. Ensure MPF has received your certified 938 (MPA orders), CED Orders, Travel Orders, print-out of vMPF Awards and Decorations, and leave information.
5. Once Relocations completes their portion and verifies all information is correct, we will finalize the 214, sign it, and print out the forms.
6. Your completed Official DD Form 214 will be mailed to you, or if you choose, can be picked up in the MPF.

Note: If you are showing as "Member not Initiated" on the Discharge Tracker, and you have already received a 214 for that time period, please let us know and we will change your status to show as "Complete."

Women's
History
Month

From the Top: **Gen. Schwartz to Airmen: ‘We are a Family’**

by Airman 1st Class Jarrod R. Chavana
Air Force Print News Service

“This is a big-tent Air Force,” Gen. Norton Schwartz said.

“In our business, you don’t measure your worth by your proximity to the fight,” he said. “We should be proud of who we are and what we do.”

“The Air Force is all about performance, excellence and demanding the best from one another.”

Demanding the best, he said, is “the Air Force way.” Although the service’s top Airman admitted mistakes have been made in the past, he emphasized the Air Force in many respects is a no-fail business where good intentions are not enough.

“We are not a corporation,” he said. “If a customer doesn’t like a particular business, they can go somewhere else. But the American people have no alternative for what we do. We have a special obligation to do things right, to do things well, to do whatever is required, wherever it is required, under whatever circumstances.”

The general also fielded several questions from Airmen in the audience:

Question: As the first chief of staff in the modern era without a fighter pilot background, does this signal a change in focus for the Air Force?

Answer: It shouldn’t be interpreted in any shape or form that some elements of our Air Force are ascendent and another isn’t. That’s not the way it is. Our Air Force is evolving, so there are some things like intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance that are

growing because that’s what our country needs. Some things are diminishing because we need less of that. It doesn’t mean it’s less important or that there isn’t future in our AirForce.

If you don’t think I am committed to making sure the Air Force will sustain its superiority by putting targets at risk any place, any time to maintain air dominance for the joint team, I am trying to persuade you otherwise.

Q: There are changes to how physical training tests are going to be administered. When will this happen?

A: The Air Force had a system that was too complicated and few understood it. In the works is a system that is simpler, that’s professionally administered and that makes more sense. The major pieces are height and weight combinations and the assessment might be administered twice a year. The logic is fitness, readiness, health and appearance.

Fitness is fundamental to our performance as an Air Force. Another aspect is that the American people have invested in the Air Force and we need to maintain our health on their behalf. Fitness

contributes to health, contributes to readiness and also makes us less demanding on the medical system.

Q: With the economy being the way it is, how will budget constraints hinder how the Air Force operates?

A: The United States can’t be a superpower and certainly a foremost military power without a sound economy. We need to be disciplined and responsible. The Air Force is going to have budget cuts and will have to prioritize and make adjustments. We will have less capability on the high end, but we will have more capabilities in those things we will need most in the immediate future.



General Norton Schwartz addresses personnel during an Airmen's Call March 11 at Langley Air Force Base, Va.
(U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Koob)

(Yellow Ribbon can't from pg. 5)

family and singles enrichment to deployments.

"I really enjoyed the marriage sessions and was thoroughly impressed with how the Air Force Reserve values marriage and family. It was obvious to me that quite a bit of time is spent finding ways to help people improve their family lives," said Shelley Eichenfels, YRRP attendee.

The program's intent is to meet Airman and Family needs at specific intervals throughout the deployment process. The four phases of the deployment cycle defined by the program are:

1) Pre-deployment:

- From time of alert to deployment, Airmen prepare for the rigors of combat.

2) Deployment:

- Airmen focus on the challenges and stress associated with separation and combat.

3) Demobilization:

- While at demob station until depart for home station; educate members about available resources and connect members to service providers.

4) Post-deployment/reconstitution:

- From arrival at home station for the next 180 days
- Reintegration activities required at 30, 60 and 90-day interval
- Focus on reconnecting with family and community for successful reintegration

The two-day event at Nemaquin combined activities

from the post-deployment/reconstitution phase at both the 30 and 60 day intervals.

"This was our first event and from the feedback, it was very well received by all those who attended. There was a lot of information presented in a relatively short period of time, and our goal is to constantly evolve the program so that we can better meet the needs of our unit members and their families. It's a valuable program and as we move forward I look for increased participation from our Airmen," said Col. Gordon H. Elwell, Jr., 911th Airlift Wing commander.

Although participation in the program is not mandatory for family members, military members must attend the majority of events. For more information regarding the YRRP please contact Maj. Nicole Santoro at (412) 474-8836.

Yellow Ribbon facts:

References to the Yellow Ribbon date back as early as 1917 to a military marching cadence about a woman who "...wore a yellow ribbon in her hair, and she wore it for her soldier who was far away." Anyone who has attended a

military 'boot camp' can remember echoing these words in formation in the early and late hours of each training day.

Throughout the Yellow Ribbon's history, one thing has remained constant, its symbolic link to marking the temporary absence of a loved one. This iconic image was then popularized at the onset of the first Gulf War. Today the ribbon represents 'support for our troops' which is seen on lapel pins, car magnets and clothing.



FY 09 UTA Schedule

Month	Primary	Alternate
April	4 - 5	18 - 19
May	2 - 3	16 - 17
June	6 - 7	20 - 21
July	11 - 12	25 - 26
August	8 - 9	22 - 23
September	12 - 13	19 - 20

Have an
interesting story
or something
you'd like to see
in the
The Flyover?

Call the
Public Affairs
Office
(412) 474-8511

90 days or more Active Duty tours means retired pay before Citizen Airmen turn 60

by Master Sgt. J.C. Woodring
Air Reserve Personnel Center
Public Affairs

DENVER - Air Reserve Personnel Center officials are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retired pay before Citizen Airmen turn 60 years old.

Since Jan. 28, 2008, Guard and Reserve Airmen can reduce the age they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate of 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year, but they cannot receive retired pay before age 50. Specific details are available online <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=13467>.

"We are trying to make this as easy as possible for our Airmen," said Steve Hannan, director of Personnel Programs at the Air

Reserve Personnel Center here. "The operational tempo of guardsmen and reservists is larger than many realize. So far this fiscal year, there could be more than 13,000 participating Guard and Reserve members performing creditable service entitling them to reduced age retired pay."

ARPC officials are working with counterparts at the Air Force Personnel Center to add a field into the Military Personnel Data System so Citizen Airmen can see their estimated retired pay date.

"Until there is an automated way to track the information, our ARPC retirement technicians are reviewing personnel and finance records to see if Citizen Airmen qualify to receive their pay early. In most cases we hope to never ask a Citizen Airman to validate their service. Our testing shows that we can often determine the correct

information from current finance and personnel systems. Only when these systems are inaccurate will we need the member's help," he said.

So far, six people are already eligible to receive their retired pay before they turned 60. Information in MilPDS indicates more than 250 Citizen Airmen who are awaiting pay at age 60 may already be eligible for reduced pay age, ARPC officials said. After reviewing these records, ARPC retirement technicians will contact those who are eligible.

If Citizen Airmen are approaching retirement and believe they are entitled to get their pay early, they can call 800-525-0102 and discuss the specifics of their participation with retirement experts to validate their eligibility for early retired pay.

For more information, call 800-525-0102 or visit www.arpc.afrc.af.mil.

PROMOTIONS			
 Airman Luca Farkas, ASTS	 Senior Airman Virginia L. Williams, OSF Brian M. Cowx, CES Donald M. Hill Jr, SFS Javon D. Palmer, CS Matthew J. Wyant, MXS Jacob R. Cambotti, MXS Nancy L. Counihan, LRS Michael D. Daymut, MXS Justin M. Heinrich, LRS Shenna J. Irwin, LRS Amber L. McCabe, LRS Joshua C. Ray, ASTS	 Staff Sgt. Gary W. Braun, MOF Glen R. Goble, APS John M. Heckman, APS Ian S. Lowe, AW Heather L. McGee, SVS Christopher M. White, MOF Kress A. Adamson, ASTS John C. Arsenault Jr, APS Justin A. Borkovic, OSF Chris L. Lombardo, SFS Karen E. Michel, APS John O. Marron, MXS Keith B. Perlic, MXS Brian A. Taylor, 758 AS	 Tech. Sgt. Peter G. Carilli, AES Lucas B. Phillips, AMS Mark E. Russak, AES Jesse Q. Williams, CS Eric A. Gaspari, AES Jennifer M. Rock, ASTS Rebekah M. Simones, AES
 Airman 1st Class Zachary T. Zappas, LRS Jason E. Pfoerther, SFS Timothy L. Schurr, MXS Jared D. Vickers, LRS			 Master Sgt. David P. Johnson, APS Tracy L. Mcardle, OG Steven R. Tornabene, APS Brent L. Stanko, 758 AS

Get promoted and didn't see your name?

Call Public Affairs, 412-474-8511

Club Cargo Bay receives internal makeover

New bar area undergoes complete redesign

by Master Sgt. Mark Winklosky
Public Affairs

Built in 1957, the 911th Airlift Wing consolidated club has gone through several changes throughout the years to even include formalizing the name in 2005 to *Club Cargo Bay*. There are, however, some more recent changes to the Club that are not noticeable from the outside.

For those who haven't visited 911th's Club Cargo Bay lately, there's an undeniable facelift to the bar, which instantly become the topic of conversation.

"Wow, this place looks amazing is what most people say as soon as they walk in the door," said bartender Ron Frees. "Everyone likes the new bar."

The old "L" shape configuration has given way to a

new "Square" making the bar more user friendly.

"The flow and movement around the bar will not be hindered any longer for the bartenders," said Tim Campbell, Club Cargo Bay manager. "This will make it easier for them [bartenders] to wait on customers more quickly," he added.

Plans for the new design began in 2007 with previous director of services, Chris McIntire. The project began September 2008 and opened for business in December. According to the base contracting office the total cost, from design to construction, was less than \$195,000.

The bar also has other amenities to add a sort of sports bar flavor.

Two big screen TVs...a 52" and 60", as well as two 32" flat screens are in view from the bar area.

If that sounds good, than come listen to the new juke box which has nearly 900 songs in its selection. For the video game enthusiast, the club offers a multiple selection of games. Rock Band is also available and

(see Club on pg. 18)

BEFORE



AFTER



HEY AIRMAN...

Let me see that cell phone!!!!



AFI 36-2903

Dress and Personal Appearance

Section 1.3.2.

Members will not...

1.3.2.1. Stand or walk with hands in pockets of any uniform combination, other than to insert or remove items.

1.3.2.2. Walk in uniform while using cell phones, radios, hands-free headsets unless required in the performance of official duties using a government issued device.

1.3.2.3. Smoke/use smokeless tobaccos, drink, or eat while walking in uniform.

Many may enter, but only five will win free tuition to a Pocono Mountain summer camp

Looking for a summer camp opportunity for youth entering grades 3rd through 8th as of Sep '09 during the weeks of 4-17 Aug 09?

Consider having your youth apply for one of five chances for Air Force youth to attend Island Lake Camp, located in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Camp tuition is being provided at **no-cost** through a generous offer from the Island Lake Camp owners who wish to support military families by providing each of the services branches free spaces at the camp.

Parents are responsible for

transportation either to/from the camp.

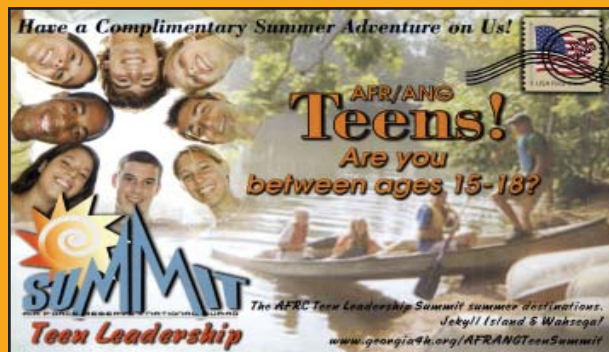
Island Lake Camp offers youth a chance to participate and develop their interest in a variety of camp offerings, to include: mountain biking, circus techniques, skateboarding, dance, pioneering, gymnastics, science, theatre, horseback riding, technology, music, water sports and a myriad of other activities.

Under the supervision of qualified, conscientious and nurturing staff, youth will experience the excitement of challenge and the satisfaction of success. Youth receive interest-based instruction to help develop poise and

mastery of skills in a variety of areas. Information about the camp is available online at www.islandlake.com.

Interested youth must submit a one to two-page essay addressing the question, "What it would mean to me to get to go to Island Lake Camp this summer." Youth affected by current or recent parental deployment should indicate such in their essay and will be given higher priority for camp selection. Submit entries via fax to (703) 604-0323 or electronically to David.Brittain@pentagon.af.mil no later than May 1, 2009.

Teen Leadership Summit 2009



Air Force Reserve Command is pleased to announce funding for two Air Force Reserve Teen Leadership Summits this year in Georgia: Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega, Ga. July 13-17, 2009 and Jekyll Island 4-H Center, Jekyll Island, Ga. July 27-31, 2009.

Wahsega 4-H Center: (site of the 2008 Summit)

Attendees will be flown into Atlanta-Hartsfield International Airport. This Summit will focus on developing an awareness of programs and services available to AF Reserve and Air National Guard dependents.

Activities include high/low ropes course, rock climbing, white water rafting, environmental education and leadership classes.

Jekyll Island 4-H Center:

Attendees will be flown into Jacksonville International Airport. This Summit will build upon information gained

at the first Summit so attendees should come with a basic understanding of programs and services available to them as dependents of AFR/ANG. Speak Out for Military Kids training will be provided as well as programs focused on ocean/marsh life and the local history. Activities will include sea kayaking/canoeing, dolphin tours, biking, a day at Cumberland Island National Seashore, leadership activities and more.

Teen Leadership Summits are open to all 15-18 year old dependent teens of current AF Reserve members. Applicants will be required to complete the 2009 Teen Leadership Summit application to include essay questions and Code of Conduct. The deadline for applications is April 6, 2009. For applications and criteria please visit: www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit.

For questions or additional information please contact: Ms. Stacey Young, Stacey.young@afrc.af.mil, 478-327-0971 or Ms. Brandi Mullins, brandi.mullins@afrc.af.mil, 478-327-2090.



(Club can't from pg. 16)

quite popular amongst the more than 800 club members.

"During the unit training assembly weekend, we always have a DJ for entertainment and the occasional band," said Mr. Campbell.

For those wishing to sit outside there's a covered, heated area with tables and chairs.

Membership has its privileges:

There are several other benefits for those interested in Club membership.

First, choose from one of two types of club membership cards. The universal card is a regular credit card for use anywhere that a MasterCard is accepted. The other is a proprietary card, restricted to Air Force services facilities only throughout the U.S. and overseas. For those who live outside the 50-mile radius of the base, the membership fee is \$3 a month. Those club goers within 50 miles will pay \$6 a month.

The card offers four convenient

ways for paying dues; monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

Membership is open to any active duty military branch, Guard, Reserve, retiree, and active DoD civilian.

A member is entitled to all the specials such as a free birthday meal for anything on the menu up to \$12 (during birthday month), free membership breakfast (every third Thursday of the month), and membership dinner nights (quarterly) at reduced prices. There are also new monthly beer specials, as well as holiday event specials.

"There's a social hour every Friday with happy hour appetizers and hors d'oeuvres such as wing dings, jalapeno poppers, and chicken nuggets," said Mr. Campbell.

A Pot-of-Gold drawing is held every Friday at 6 p.m. Winners must be present to collect.

Members can receive further savings for any catering needs.



"Members have free use of the club for their catering needs. The only cost incurred is for food and beverages," said Patti Bordeaux, catering manager.

Club Cargo Bay is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1p.m. The kitchen opens for dinner at 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and varies on the closing time from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., depending on the crowd. UTA weekends offer extended hours on Friday and Saturday to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, or information on how to become a Club member, please contact Tim Campbell at 412-474-8227.



Newly Commissioned

Four members of the 911th Airlift Wing's Operations Group graduated from the 14-week Air Force Officer Training School held at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Feb. 24. From left to right are 2nd Lts. Michael J. DeMaye, Dustin Pope, Patrick K. McKenna, and Richard Bell. (Photo by Lt. Col. Don Richey, 911th Operations Group)

APRIL

Pay Dates

Primary: April 15

Alternate: April 29



NEWS BRIEFS

Become an Officer:

An opportunity exists for a deserving airman to obtain an officer position in the Logistic Support Squadron through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and be under age 35. For further details contact: Master Sgt. Linda Davis 412-474-8517 or Genny Todorowski 412-474-8560.

Incentive Flights:

Incentive Flights are now being offered to Quarterly Award winners. The flights will be during the May, Aug., Nov. and Feb. UTAs. Names are to be vetted through the Operations Group and ASTS Command. Only one incentive flight per individual is permitted.

Wounded Warriors Care Package Drive:

The Pittsburgh Military Family Support Group has extended the Wounded Warriors Care Package drive to accommodate donations through the April UTA. Collection boxes are placed at the Fitness Center,

Perksburg and the foyer of Building 316. Items needed are toiletries, stationary, pillows, travel alarm clocks and any item you would need if you became separated from your gear due to a combat related injury. Monetary donations will also be accepted to cover shipping charges. For questions please contact Mrs. Jana Johnson at 412-973-5843.

Black Boots:

Effective immediately, Airmen who perform duties in industrial work environments are temporarily authorized to wear black boots with ABUs. Airmen are permitted to wear the black boots when in an environment that may cause irreparable staining to the sage green or tan boots. Airmen are to verify with their supervisor as to when the black boots are authorized.

Free Tax Service:

Military OneSource offers free tax consultations and free e-filing for Reservists and their family members. Logon to www.militaryonesource.com today.

(Focused con't from pg. 3)

Lieutenant Colonels, Senior Master Sergeants and Chiefs are expected to have the greatest vision. Virtually everything out the front window should be evaluated. Plans to avoid obstacles and overcome challenges are absolutely essential. This group should have already mastered the expectations of the previous groups. This mastery is a gift to be passed on. This concept of training your replacement is essential. In addition to understanding Operational vision, Lieutenant Colonels, Seniors and Chiefs are engaged with peers outside their organizations and wing in order to fully see and understand all they can of the road ahead. This represents the more Strategic levels of Air Force leadership. For these experienced Airmen, they have the most to glean from the rear view mirror. Pass along the

pride of heritage; use this for encouragement. Share the lessons learned, where applicable. Teach your replacements, but always remember, the Air Force out the front window, is not necessarily the Air Force you see out that very small rectangle looking backwards. Keep your focus where it belongs.

Great organizations remain great by adapting to the changing environment. Consider the Pittsburgh Steelers. Winning the sixth Super Bowl was more about knowing their upcoming adversaries followed with anticipating and training for those new threats. The Steelers built upon the great heritage of their past by adapting to the road ahead which, for them, is next year with new players and new opportunities.

How much more important is it for us, the defenders of America's freedoms and our country's vital interests to be ready for emerging threats? Each of us has a critical

role to play as we, with Air Force doctrine and experience as our guide, ensure readiness for the situations we will face on the road ahead. Be proud of the 911th Airlift Wing's heritage and the great accomplishments in past exercises and real-world operations, but never forget it is the road ahead that really matters now.

As I change lanes for different opportunities in my career, I will certainly bring with me extremely fond memories of my experiences here at Pittsburgh. I challenge each of you to keep your focus forward and to understand your evolving mission as you continue to prepare to meet new demands. Leaders, train your replacements and always remember your most important assets are the diverse people who make-up the 911th family as we focus primarily ahead with the same reference—we continue to move forward.



A large American flag is being held up by two men in military camouflage uniforms. The flag is the central focus, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. The men are standing in front of the flag, holding it from the bottom. The background is dark, making the flag stand out.

Help support the Stars and Stripes...

Join the Air Force Reserve (412) 474-8555

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